Progress in setting up of refinery at Namaligarh

3002. SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of physical progress made so far by the concerned authority in respect of setting up of a refinery at Numaligarh in Assam at the site of laying the foundation stone by the Prime Minister on 3rd July, 1992?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): The physical progress made so far is as under:—

(i) preliminary soil investigations and sit survey completed.

(ii) construction of a small site office completed.

(iii) approach roads constructed to enable to take up construction job smoothly.

(iv) a POL consumer pump has been installed.

Modernisation of Digboi refinery

3003 SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present progress in respect of modernisation and renovation of the Digboi refinery;

(b) whether it is a fact that progress has been stalled by an abrupt order of the Chairman, Indian Oil Corpartion Limited;

(c) the amount earmarked for 1992 and 1993 and the amount spent so far; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to expedite the modernisation process?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) An expenditure of about Rs. 51 crores has been incurred on Digboi Refinery Modernisation project till June 1992. The physical progress achieved is about 39 per cent of the total work. For the year 1992-93 there is an approved provision of Rs. 20 crores for this project. In view of steep escalation in the cost of the project, revised cost estimate is being processed for approval.

Setting up of Oil Museum in Assam

3004. SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position in respect of proposed oil Museum in Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to shift the Museum from Digboi to Guwahati against the public opinion; and

(c) if so, whether Government would rethink about the site of the site of the Museum as Guwahati is already congested and has no petroleum background?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The details of the project of the oil Museum are under finalisation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. The Oil Museum is envisaged to be set up at Guwahati itself.

Oil and Natural Gas reserves in Maharashtra

3005. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has identified certain locations in Maharashtra which are believed to be rich in oil and natural gas reserves;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and